Jefferson College, Canonsburg.

To the Society of Inquiry
at Princeton N. J.

Decem. 15th 1840.

Dear brethren,

We have taken the liberty of addressing you on the present occasion, thinking you will not consider us as unduly assuming, when our object is made known. Although we have had no former communication with your society, (that we know of) yet we would address you as friends and brethren engaged in one common cause with a desire to do good. We are all who profess to be the followers of the Savior, to endeavor to imitate him more, in his disinterested attempts to do good; it is probable, our communication would partake of a different tone, from what it must at present. Vital piety, has been on the decline for some time past. The Lord has given us temporal prosperity, and we fruitfully, are satisfied with this, though we have leanness and barrenness in our souls. The proportion of professors of religion among the students has also decreased: and our church is like the mountains of Gilboa, upon which neither rain nor dew has descended. As a natural consequence our religious society will be characterised with but little interest. This has been, for some time, the condition of the Society of Inquiry, on whose behalf

I now address you. A minute history of which we presume it will not be necessary to give, as you have those among you, who being since its active members, will be able to communicate such information. Our object is to acquire and diffuse missionary information. To accomplish this end, we were formerly in the habit of corresponding with missionaries and societies of inquiry; but this practice was decreasing until last session, when it was abandoned altogether. It is owing to this, in part no doubt, that there has of late been so little interest in society. When correspondence was carried on extensively in 1834 the society numbered 60 members, whereas now we have not more than 20 in regular attendance. Having some faint conception of the great amount of good, such a society may do, if properly conducted, and attended by the blessing of Heaven, we resolved to renew our correspondence, with the view of exciting a greater interest amongst us for the subject of missions. Our object in writing to you, is to solicit of you any information, suggestion, or advice you may be pleased to communicate; as, what number of students have you? what interest is felt in the cause of missions? What is state of religion among you? &c. &c. We know that you all are willing assist in promoting the cause of missions, which is, emphatically, the cause of God. By writing to us you may be the means of provoking us to greater

activity in this holy cause. We certainly we cannot help feeling the need of this, when we take a survey of the moral condition of the world, and see one almost entire wilderness interspersed with but few cultivated to afford sustenance to 800,000,000, of beings When we consider the millions, who are perishing annually for want of the bread of eternal life, our heart should be filled with compassion, and our hands ready to supply their wants. We rejoice that the dense clouds of Paganism and Superstition which have brooded over the earth for so long a period, are begining to be broken by many missionary stations, which shine forth as so many stars of promise. How pleasant! How delightful! to gaze upon the rising sun, (after she has been concealed for several days) as she blazes along the heavens, turning to gorgeous purple every dull cloud, gilding the mountain top, and chasing the mist from the valley. How much more glorious is the dawn which we are permitted to behold, the glorious sun of righteous arising, whose bright beams are dispelling the thick moral gloom, which has enthroned the nations for ages. If we wish to behold his meridian splendor, we should endeavor to remove every thing, which intercepts his golden rays. If we wish to see the barren wilds of the earth, transformed into a garden of the Lord, luxuriant in fragrance and beauty, we must be more active

P. S. & Troff. Kennedy died on Tuesday the 14th inst. at 6 o'clock P. M.

Yours in the bonds of christian affection

Wm Ottinger a member of the Cor. Com.

To the S. S. of P. G. S.